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SUBJECT: ANKARA MEDIA REACTION REPORT

TUESDAY, JUNE 14, 2005

THIS REPORT PRESENTS THE TURKISH PRESS SUMMARY UNDER THREE THEMES:

HEADLINES

BRIEFING

EDITORIAL OPINION

HEADLINES

MASS APPEAL

PKK Calls for Barzani's Support - Milliyet
Military Operations Continue Against PKK - Sabah
Iranian Police Interrupts Work of 'Reporter' Sean Penn -
Hurriyet
Settlers' Fury in Jerusalem - Hurriyet
General Aoun Defeats Jamblaat - Sabah
Michael Jackson Not Guilty of Child Molestation - Milliyet

OPINION MAKERS

Iran Claims Tehran, Ahvaz Bombers Trained by US - Yeni Safak
General Aoun Returns to Political Arena in Lebanon - Yeni
Safak
El-Baradei Reelected IAEA Chief - Yeni Safak
EU Postpones Membership Talks With Croatia - Cumhuriyet
Saddam's Interrogation Footage Released - Radikal
Iranian Candidates Strive to Impress Youth - Radikal
Conservative Candidates May Unite Against Rafsanjani - Zaman
Torture Methods Documented at Guantanamo - Cumhuriyet
NYT: US Army Can't Recruit New Members - Cumhuriyet

BRIEFING

Erdogan's Lebanon Visit Will 'Anger' Washington: Prime Minister Tayyip Erdogan will 'anger' Washington by his upcoming visit to Syria tomorrow, the leftist-nationalist "Cumhuriyet" reports. The paper argues that the visit comes despite repeated warnings from the Bush Administration against close ties with Damascus. Erdogan will meet pro-Syrian President Lahoud, Parliamentary Speaker Berri, and moderate Prime Minister Mikati during his visit. Diplomatic sources said the timing of the visit was 'extremely bad': 'Syria pulled out of Lebanon, but its influence persists. The final result of the country's first democratic elections is not yet known,' the sources said, adding that Erdogan's meetings with Lebanese politicians close to Damascus will create a 'wrong impression.' Erdogan will also participate in the Arab Economic Forum meetings in Beirut, where he is expected to discuss the US-led Broader Middle East and North Africa Initiative (BMENAI). "Cumhuriyet" notes that while PM Erdogan announced Turkey's support for the BMENAI in Washington, he has also made criticisms of the initiative.

Erdogan 'Briefs' Bush on Syria: A member of the Erdogan delegation visiting the US last week told "Hurriyet" columnist Fatih Altayli that the Turkish prime minister's visit had been 'very successful,' and that all of Turkey's goals -- conveying Turkey's position regarding Iraq, the PKK, Syria and Iran - had been achieved. The source blamed 'certain circles' for lobbying against Turkey's proposals to the Washington Administration. Erdogan told President Bush that, unlike the situation in Iraq where Saddam Hussein was the problem, in Syria the system is problematic but its leader is not. Erdogan proposed efforts to change the totalitarian regime into a more democratic and peaceful one by helping Assad, and warned that all other approaches would increase tension in the region. 'President Bush listened to Erdogan's suggestions, and he seemed impressed,' the AKP source said.

EU Approves Additional Protocol With Turkey: The EU General Council on Monday approved the additional protocol extending the customs union with Turkey to cover the 10 new members, including Cyprus, papers report. The additional protocol is expected to be signed by all EU member states, including Turkey, by the end of June. When it signs the document, Turkey will also issue a declaration making clear that the protocol does not amount to recognition of the government in Cyprus.

PKK Asks for Barzani's Help: "Milliyet" quotes "Copenhagen Roj TV" as reporting that PKK/Kongra-Gel leader Zubeyir

Aydar called on 'president-elect' of 'south Kurdistan,' Masud Barzani, to support the struggle in 'north Kurdistan.' (Kurdish-owned "Copenhagen Roj TV," which supports the PKK, broadcasts in Turkish from Copenhagen.) Aydar pointed to 'certain improvements' with regard to the Kurdish question in northern Iraq and the rest of the country, and noted that the 'war' continued in Syria, Iran, and Turkey - the remaining 'three parts of Kurdistan.' 'Unless the Kurdish question is resolved as a whole, gains in south Kurdistan will be jeopardized. We are at war with Turkey,' Aydar reportedly said. Atdar, a former DEP parliamentarian, urged Barzani to support the Kurds' struggle in 'north Kurdistan' (east and southeastern Turkey). 'If a settlement is not reached in the north, the settlement in south Kurdistan will remain limited. The Kurds need to gather around a common strategy,' Aydar said, adding that he supported 'federalism' in northern Iraq.

Turkey-Iraq Transportation Security Talks Postponed: A transportation security meeting to be held on June 13 in Ankara between the Iraq and Turkish foreign ministries has been postponed, papers report. Turkish Foreign Ministry (MFA) officials said the meeting will be held in about 10 days, after the Iraqi side wraps up preparations for the technical-level discussions. Meanwhile, MFA sources said a second meeting on the opening of consulates in both countries will be held on June 16 as scheduled.

Turkish Military Organizes Bosnia, Kosovo Press Tour: The Turkish General Staff (TGS) has organized a press tour to Bosnia and Kosovo from June 14-17 in an effort to show Turkish peacekeepers' contribution to regional stability, "Hurriyet" reports. TGS Operations Chief, General Metin Yalcin, will lead a large group of Turkish journalists for talks with high-level officials and an inspection of Turkish troops in the region.

General Ozkok Travels to Kazakhstan, Mongolia: Turkish General Staff Chief General Hilmi Ozkok left for Kazakhstan on Monday, from where he and his delegation will move on to Mongolia for official visits and talks with their military counterparts, the semi-official Anatolian News Agency (AA) reported. Ozkok will return to Turkey on June 17.

Erdogan Prevent Staff From Visiting Cyprus: Prime Minister Tayyip Erdogan warned his staff members against traveling to south Cyprus after the main Greek Cypriot opposition DISI invited AK Party leaders to Nicosia, papers report. The Greek Cypriots will not allow foreign visitors coming in from northern Cyprus to cross into the south part of the island, and Erdogan is concerned that visiting Cyprus before the signing of the accession protocol with the EU could be interpreted as recognition of Cyprus.

Mothers With Headscarves Banned from Graduation Ceremony: Mothers wearing headscarves have been blocked from joining graduation ceremonies of their children at Ataturk University in Turkey's eastern province of Erzurum, Turkish media report. Conservative media joined families in their protests against the ban, saying parents who had traveled hundreds of miles for the graduation were denied the pleasure of sharing their children's happiest day.

Landmines on Turkey-Syria Border to be Removed: The Turkish Ministry of Finance is to offer a contract for the sweeping of some 50 million landmines along the 850-km Turkey-Syria border, an area of 3.5 million acres, "Yeni Safak" reports. After the mines are removed, the land will be distributed among local farmers.

'Pig' Interrogation at Gitmo: Turkish dailies cite a "TIME" report on the alleged abuse of a Guantanamo Bay prison inmate, Muhamad al-Kahtani, during his time in the US-run prison. Kahtani was forced to listen to the US national anthem in a room garnished with US flags, watch a puppet show mocking al-Qaeda, bark at terrorists' pictures, and snort like a pig. Kahtani was also stripped naked and his hair and beard were cut, the report claims.

EDITORIAL OPINION: Debt Erase/G-8 Summit; US-Turkey

"The G-8 Summit"
Meliksah Utku wrote in the pro-government/Islamist oriented "Yeni Safak" (6/14): "The G-8 summit is to convene under three major agenda items -- Africa, environmental issues, and the Middle East. The Middle East issue includes both anti-terrorism efforts and the comprehensive reform process in the region. In fact, the summit will heavily focus on the entire Middle East and Africa region within the framework of the BMENAI project. A message from the G-8 summit that would address the immediate concerns of the people of the Middle East is unlikely. The fact is that the US wants to pursue its current policy on the Middle East/Africa, and is looking for other countries to sign on to the US approach. . Tony Blair, in his capacity as host, took the initiative to eliminate 40 billion dollars of

foreign debt for a number of developing countries. But the G-8 finance ministers failed to reach a consensus on the issue, despite the fact that the IMF and the World Bank have already eliminated their portion of the debt. . One of the objections to the elimination of debt is that debt reduction should go hand in hand with more 'ethical spending' by the developing countries. Developed nations argue that poor countries suffer from a lack of ethics when it comes to spending, so debt forgiveness will only enable them to spend more irresponsibly and unethically. In fact, the US has already connected the debt forgiveness proposal to a series of social, economic, and political reforms in those countries. . This approach has been criticized as more evidence of the hypocrisy of developed countries. The UK-based movement 'Make Poverty History,' which includes Muslims and other NGOs, argues that Western nations are using ethical issues as a political tool. The group clearly rejects any suggestion of a link between poverty and corruption in these countries. The G-8 summit will be very interesting to watch."

"Should Turkey be on the Side of the EU or the US? Sami Kohen opined in the mainstream daily "Milliyet" (6/14): "Let me respond to this question with a question - 'does Turkey really face such a choice?' I don't think so. There are two developments which drew people's attention to this question. The first is that the campaign in Europe against Turkey's membership has intensified. The second is Erdogan's visit to the US and the effort to improve the weakening Turkey-US relationship. Some circles have linked these two issues, and believe that Turkey needs to make a choice between the US and the EU. In my opinion, these are exaggerated and premature evaluations. Prime Minister Erdogan stressed in his interview with the 'New York Times' that good relations with the US and the EU have equal importance for Turkey. It is not realistic to believe that PM Erdogan went to the US to move Turkey closer to Washington because he is skeptical about the EU. While speculation continues in certain circles in Turkey that the government can put distance between Turkey and the EU while getting closer to the US, high-level US officials including Secretary Rice continuously call for the EU to open its

SIPDIS doors to Turkey. The US administration believes that Turkey's EU vision overlaps with its strategic relationship with the US. In other words, Washington believes that there is no need for Turkey to make a choice between the EU and the US, nor to use one against the other."

MOORE